

thereby forming a coating film of the surface hardening material and the flame sprayed film of the heat-resistant ceramic substance.

6. (Amended) A furnace characterized by possessing a highly endurable heat insulating material set forth in claim 1 as part or whole of a fire-resistant article.
7. (Amended) A smoke discharging device characterized by possessing a highly endurable heat insulating material set forth in claim 1 as part or whole of a fire-resistant article.
8. (Amended) A tunnel characterized by possessing a highly endurable heat insulating material set forth in claim 1 as part or whole of a fire-resistant article.
9. (Amended) In working a highly endurable heat insulating material for the use set forth in claim 6, a working method characterized by setting an inorganic heat insulating fiber on an iron skin, a fire-resistant substrate, or a concrete, applying a surface hardening agent to the surface of the fiber, and subsequently forming a film of a fire-resistant ceramic substance by frame spraying on the coat of the surface hardening agent.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to eliminate multiple dependent claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Versions with markings to show changes made."

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Respectfully submitted

John J. Kelly, Jr.
John J. Kelly, Jr. (Reg. No. 29,182)

KENYON & KENYON
One Broadway
New York, New York 10004
(212) 425-7200 (telephone)
(212) 425-5288 (facsimile)